

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 3, Folder 5

April 22, 1958 -  
May 14, 1958

0001



April 22, 1958

Dear Joe:

I received your letter last night and I am replying to it at once. In the first place I don't know why we are being deactivated. What Vice Admiral Curts says may well be true, but I have heard other reasons as well. I think that Curts' reason could be the best reason of all. There has been a group around the CNO who have objected to my analyses on the ground that "if a sister service gets hold of one of them and noted our mistakes in command they might use it against us". When I heard this one I flat footedly denounced it as a lack of vision and a lack of courage. I also emphasized that my analyses did not confine themselves to pointing out errors alone; that they pointed out "sound" decisions as well.

As a matter of interest, Admiral Chester Nimitz, Admiral Richard Conolly and Admiral "Mick" Carney, among others, have protested about it and do not wish it stopped. However, the narrow minded group is in the saddle and this is the result.

I am pretty sure the idea did not originate with either Admiral Felt or Admiral Burke, because correspondence with Admiral Felt indicates that the concept originated on a lower level. However, the "top boys" cannot escape their responsibility for the decision. I am beginning to believe that I am pretty lucky to have been able to accomplish what I have!

I am very interested in what you are going to do about the Pentagon situation. I understand from your memorandum that you are planning to take pretty strong action. My only suggestion in this line is that any decision that you make should be thoroughly thought out on the lines of sound military decision.

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There will be a young Commander (USNR) from Philadelphia—he is secretary of the Philadelphia Navy League, named Howard W. Taylor—who is attending your meeting in San Francisco. I hope that, if you run across him, you will be nice to him. He is a lawyer and is doing extremely well in his law firm—a famous one—is already a junior partner and is moving up to be a senior partner. His mother-in-law and his wife are very good friends of mine.

I hope that you will invite my two brothers, i.e., Dr. C. E. H. Bates, who lives in Stonestown, and my brother in Sacramento, Mr. H. Jocelyn Bates, 2756 10th Avenue, Sacramento 18, California, to some of your meetings. I know that the Sacramento brother is a member of the Navy League. I don't think he thinks much of the Sacramento League and considers himself a member of the San Francisco League, where his home office is.

With best regards to you and with appreciations for your letter, and for your friendly comments about my work here, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

H. J. Joseph Sullivan  
111 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, Calif.

0003



April 24, 1958

Dear Reg:

Since writing to you I received a letter from one of the top Navy Leaguers out on the Coast. He has been to the Naval War College and Global Strategy Discussions, and has always had an enormous interest in my section. He wrote me relative to the disestablishment of this section as follows:

"The local Navy League recently had a dinner honoring Vice Admiral Curts. Because I presided I was seated next to him. He told me that your program at the War College is being abolished. He said you had been critical--objectively--but that criticism hurts and the powers to be decided to end it. Admiral Curts disapproved the Navy action.

"IF SUCH BE THE REASON IT ANNOYS HELL OUT OF ME. WE ARE IN A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL AND WE MUST LEARN BY OUR ERRORS OF THE PAST. TO BLITHELY AND BLINDLY IGNORE OUR MISTAKES IS TO INVITE THEM TWOFOLD FOR THE FUTURE."

There is a slight error in his remarks in that he and numerous others think that my work here is only seeking errors made by commanders. Nothing could be further from the truth, for that is not really analysis.

What I am endeavoring to do here is to study command in action and to discover battle lessons which can be effective for the future. Therefore, when the decision of a commanders appears sound, it is discussed and so stated. When, on the other hand, it seems unsound, the same procedure is gone through, and it is stated as unsound. I think that my work here follows rather closely Clausewitz in his "On War".

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I know that what I am doing has met with favor with most commanders. It, therefore, appears that, if there is anything to what Admiral Curtis says, a group who are opposed to criticism of any kind have prevailed with the "high command".

I certainly hope that all goes well with you, and that you and Elsa are in fine fettle. I also hope that what you hear from your "heirs" is good. You have fine children and grandchildren.

I am hoping to have you as my guest at the usual Clambake Luncheon on July 4th.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Vice Admiral J. L. Kauffman, USN (Ret)  
250 So. 18th St.  
Philadelphia, Penna.

0005



April 24, 1958

Dear Swede:

The other day I heard on the radio that President Eisenhower had visited you at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. This was my first realization that you were back in that "charming" place. I called the Red Cross about you and asked them to check. I promptly heard that you were there with nothing too much wrong with you, and seemed in excellent health and spirits, and further, that you would be there for some time.

All this was good news to me because I know that over the years you have battled to keep afloat.

I hope that your whole family are in good shape. Certainly they seem to be growing in numbers year by year, which interests me greatly.

<sup>No</sup>I noted in the Naval Academy Alumni reports that you had been assigned a "chair" in the new stadium. This bothered me a lot as I had already made arrangements in my own mind to give myself the honor. I think that you are deserving of a chair there, and I concur that it is not necessary for one to be "in the ground" for his family to discover that he has been recognized by his colleagues.

As you know my tenure of service will soon be over. The Navy Department has decided to fold up my section, and I am to be detached, I think, on 31 July. At least that is what the President of the Naval War College tells me. There has been considerable opposition to folding my section. Admiral Carney wrote to Admiral Burke and recommended that it not be folded; Admiral Conolly did the same, and Admiral Nimitz was quite forceful against it. However, it seems that there is a group somewhere in the vicinity of the CNO which has convinced him that I have done enough. I received a personal letter from the Vice Chief (Don Felt) saying that they felt, from my completed work, that they had gotten

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enough lessons for the future. This irritated me greatly, because they know very well that I am about to discuss the great decisions at Leyte, i.e., Halsey's move to the north, Kurita's retirement, Kinkaid's searches, etc., and then when I had finally completed these discussions, to produce the final broad battle lessons.

The other day, in California, a Senior Naval Reserve Officer who is one of the top boys in the Navy League was at dinner with Vice Admiral Curtis, recently CINCPAC, in San Francisco. He wrote me as follows:

"The local Navy League recently had a dinner honoring Vice Admiral Curtis. Because I presided I was seated next to him. He told me that your program at the War College is being abolished. He said that you had been critical--objectively--but that criticism hurts and the powers to be decided to end it. Admiral Curtis disapproved the Navy action.

"IF SUCH BE THE REASON IT ANNOYS HELL OUT OF ME. WE ARE IN A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL AND WE MUST LEARN BY OUR ERRORS OF THE PAST. TO BLITHELY AND BLINDLY IGNORE OUR MISTAKES IS TO INVITE THEM TWOFOLD FOR THE FUTURE."

I personally feel that the job should not be stopped. It is, therefore, hard for me to believe that it will be, but I am afraid that this is final. Every year a battle has arisen on this, and every year I have won out, but not this time. Certainly I am not anxious to continue if I don't have the support of the "high command" which, heretofore, I have always had,

I certainly hope that you stay in Bethesda will not be too long, but that you will be able to return home again feeling confident that you are in good enough shape to be around for a long time more.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Captain E. E. Hazlett, USN (Ret)  
U.S. Naval Hospital  
National Naval Medical Center  
Bethesda, Md.

0007



April 25, 1958

Dear Harold:

I am sending you herewith a draft of the Battle of Surigao Strait so far as I have gone. This embraces the major portions of the battle. The rest of it is "wiping up" operations, the "introduction" and the "approach".

I am quite interested in your reactions to this and would appreciate anything you have to say relative to it.

It is of particular interest to destroyers because the destroyers didn't do awfully well. You will note that they fired their torpedoes from relatively long distances. they didn't close the enemy as closely as they might have to insure hits; and they generally did not make coordinated attacks. There was, of course, a reason for this. This was because the destroyers had been doing largely screening, antisubmarine and antiaircraft work, and had done no real training in night attack. I would like to say something about this in the book, if I get a chance to finish the book, even though not on active duty. I also feel that there should be some battle lessons to point out why some of these unfortunate things occurred.

Vice Admiral John Sylvester read an earlier draft and was extremely commendatory about it. He said that he thought that the study was very complete as far as we had gone. However, I don't want this to affect your judgement.

I shall be very interested in any recommendations you may care to make. In this connection I would appreciate it if you would check the information, and even the plots of the torpedo firing.

I know that you are leaving your command soon, but I hope that you will have time to go over this as it will be extremely helpful to me.

With appreciations for anything you may be able to do in this matter, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral H. T. Deuterman, USN  
Commander Destroyer Flotilla TWO  
USS ARCADIA  
U.S. Naval Station, Newport, R. I.

0008



April 28, 1958

Dear Colonel Benade:

It was a great pleasure to talk to you about the "pay" bill. I am very sorry that I didn't do so before. However, the fact that I encountered you over the telephone was more of an accident than anything else. It was due to Admiral Varian, alone, and for this I am most grateful. I had, heretofore, been communicating with the Retired Officers Association (ROA), who are supposed to be as up-to-date as anyone on these matters. Actually, of course, they are not.

I hate to bother you about this new problem which is before me. I would have bothered you before had I known of your eminence, but I didn't know it and I had to rely on the Navy Department to look out for me, which, except for your vigilance, they might never have done.

I wouldn't have bothered you with this new problem had it not been for a decision on January 16th, 1957 in the U.S. Court of Claims which gave a little different viewpoint to the matter at issue. This matter was made known about a month ago. It is to the effect (Court of Claims decision enclosed herewith) that, "Any officers of the retired list of the Navy of the permanent grade or rank of rear admiral who is entitled to the pay of the lower half of that grade and who is, has been, or may be recalled to active duty and who in time of war or other national emergency served, serves, or may serve satisfactorily on active duty for a period of two years or more in the grade of rear admiral or in a higher grade, shall be entitled when on active duty to the pay and allowances of ~~rear~~ admiral of the upper half unless he is entitled under other provisions of law to higher pay and allowances, and he shall be entitled when on inactive duty to retired pay equal to 75 percentum of the pay of a rear admiral of the upper half, etc."

I, therefore, wrote to Admiral Murphy of the ROA, but of course I haven't gotten anywhere on it, because, apparently, the ROA takes a long time to accomplish much.

It is hard for me to believe that there is any difference, really, in the law between Commodore and Rear Admiral as both draw the same pay. The main difference is the star. I am pleased to wear one star as it has a long and distinguished history. In this connection when I retired in 1949, the Chief of Naval Personnel said he would order me back to duty as a Rear Admiral if I would report in immediately. I told him that I could not do it; that I was quite ill and I would have to go on a holiday for several months until I could determine whether I felt fit to go ahead. After two months I received orders to duty as Commodore. I was told that this was because only

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eleven vacancies were authorized by law--that is for retired flag officers on active duty as Rear Admirals or above--and that these vacancies had been filled. So, there you are! Admiral Forest Sherman--I wrote this to Admiral Varian--said that had I been on active duty as a Rear Admiral when he took office as CNO, he would have retained me on active duty as a Rear Admiral but the policy had changed.

So, because of numerous factors, not the least of which is that I am the only Commodore on active duty, I have been denied the rights of the Byrd bill.

For your information, I have been writing these critical analyses on the major naval battles in World War II and each year until this year I have been asked to continue the work--I didn't ask for it, I was asked. My reason for writing these was that the Navy Department and the Naval War College both selected me as the logical officer to do this despite the fact that I was in the hospital with a heart condition. I was chosen by the Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz) and the President of the Naval War College (Admiral Raymond A. Spruance). I was on active duty at the time and I was retired in 1949 because my heart condition gradually got the better of me.

My recommendation, therefore, is that some change be made in the new pay bill to cover the above situation..

With best regards to you and with hopes that you can see my viewpoint in this matter and will assist me in being given the pay and allowances of a Rear Admiral of the Upper Half, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

LCOL L. E. Benade, USA  
Room 3A874, Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

0010



29 April 1958

Dear Don:

Since writing to you and hearing from you in return, I was very happy to receive word by telephone from Rear Admiral Harold Houser of the Retired Officers Association (ROA) that the pay bill had passed the Senate Committee, and that it was so worded that I was in it provided I was on active duty at the time the Bill went into effect. I told him that I appreciated his call, but that I had contacted the Defense Department in the previous week and had discussed this very matter. For this, I give you thanks!

I talked to Lieutenant Colonel Benade on the phone about another project which I had in view for over a month and which I had referred to the ROA. One would imagine that in my long years of service I would have discovered that the ROA, while effective in the broad phases, is not very effective in the limited matters to which I referred. I think the Creator must have been guiding my mind when I decided to call you!

The matter I have written to Benade about has to do with the so-called Byrd Act. Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd was put in the Upper Half of the Rear Admirals after only two years of service, although officers on regular duty are required to have five years. Recently in the McGill decision a reserve officer who had retired as a Captain and had been promoted to Rear Admiral on the retired list was called back to active duty for two years and was given the same rights as Admiral Byrd. When I discovered this, the other day, I wrote to the ROA about it and we are now in conference over it. However, it struck me that time was short and perhaps Benade could adjust this dam thing himself with a few comments to the joint committee. They might be willing to straighten it out for me. He seemed to think it quite possible!

I realize that the so-called Byrd Act was really to cover Admiral Byrd, alone, and that anyone who profits by it is just "lucky". My thought was, and is, that it might be well to say that an officer who come back on active duty as a Commodore and then serves successfully a certain number of years should also be included under this Act or Bill. My thought is that the Congress could add a very short phrase to the pay bill to the effect that such an act is modified by the inclusion of the following words: "...".

There are so many factors that enter into this, in my mind, that I feel that my request in this matter is fair and should be allowed. Anyway, whether I get it or not, I am very grateful for the other, and for the interest that your friend Benade has placed in it. Certainly this change that I am recommending would really only improve my situation on the retired list, as after I am returned to that list I don't think anyone else would be made a Commodore. Certainly, except for me, there have been none for many years.

0011



Did you hear about what they are saying in California? It seems that one of the crematoriums out there is shipping ashes to Cannibal Africa as instant people. Your wife should like that one. Merely add water!

Take care of yourself, and with best regards to your lovely wife, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral D. C. Varian, USN  
Room 3A886, Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

0012



29 April 1958

Dear Colonel Benader:

The letter I wrote you yesterday I wrote hastily in order that you might get the general idea. I know that when some people read what I am suggesting they will snort, but I am not really suggesting anything that is any more "snortable" than what the Byrd Bill provides.

The Byrd Bill was set up for Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd who had been promoted to Rear Admiral by Congressional fiat. As I recall he never served as a Captain at all. I am not being critical of Admiral Byrd, for I think that his explorations and the interest he created in them, have been of enormous value to our country and will pay dividends in later years.

However, under the law today, an officer is supposed to remain in the Lower Half for five years before he draws the pay of the Upper Half, and yet here in the Byrd Bill this was reduced to two years for retired officers and in particular for Richard E. Byrd.

In the decision in connection with the McCall case it will be noted that the highest rank McCall held during the War was Captain. The highest rank I held during the War was Commodore, and had it not been for Ernest J. King I would have been a Rear Admiral during the War. I was recommended twice by dispatch and personal message. The first time was by Vice Admiral J. B. Oldendorf--whose Chief of Staff I was--after the Battle of Surigao Strait. Vice Admiral Oldendorf, at that time, sent a message to the effect, "Recommend Captain Richard W. Bates, file number 9027, for immediate promotion to Rear Admiral for demonstrated superiority in action against the enemy".

The second time was after the Battle of Lingayen Gulf when Vice Admiral Oldendorf and I were called to Guam. Upon our arrival Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz got up and pointed at me and said, "Your work is so fine that I am promoting you to Rear Admiral now". He said that he had sent his Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral C. H. McMorris, to Washington to, among other things, get me promoted, and he further said that he was giving us his personal plane to fly to the Coast and thence to Washington, where he, Vice Admiral Oldendorf, was to get me promoted. Upon our arrival in Washington Vice Admiral Oldendorf was told not to mention me to Admiral King or "he would be thrown out of the office".

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Why was Admiral King so angry at me? The reason appears to have been because I criticized our conduct of operations openly and in writing--although not to the public. It was the fact that I had done all this during the War and at the Naval War College before I went to sea in 1943, which caused Fleet Admiral Nimitz and Admiral Spruance, who seemed to have approved of my conduct, to recommend me for the work I have been doing for the past few years. As a matter of interest, before he died, Admiral King spoke warmly of me. So, perhaps, he had changed his mind.

I think that if you will, you can change this bill slightly to favor me. It could be worded in such a way as to have no future effects, in that I am the only Commodore on active duty, and I am not so sure but that I will be the last. Perhaps it could say, "any Commodore who has served on active duty for '....' years".

If you can succeed in doing this thing it will be wonderful. Although I was retired as sixty per cent disabled by the Navy Retiring Board in 1949, the famous Boston heart specialist, Dr. Howard Sprague, stated in writing that I was not less than eighty-five per cent disabled.

With hopes that this long discussion of my position is not boring and that it may help you to correct the above inequity, and with many thanks for everything you have done for me, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

LCOL Leo E. Benade, USA  
Room 3A874, Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

0014



7 May 1958

Dear Captain Drouilhet:

As you perhaps know, since your office on occasions does a considerable amount of work for us here, the World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College has been preparing a strategical and tactical analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. The last analysis published was Volume III of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which you very likely have in your immediate possession. We are now preparing an analysis of the Battle of Surigao Strait which will be Volume V of the Leyte Gulf series. This will consist of (a) two area diagrams exactly similar to those in Volume III, which I referred to above, and (b) a series of diagrams of the Surigao Strait area during the battle. I am sure that there are people in your office who are familiar with all of this, so I won't expound too fully. However, I am hoping to send you shortly a series of diagrams on which you will, I hope, put the weather in the area at the time.

The first diagram covers the Western Pacific from 1042 to 2400 October 23rd, 1944; the second one the period from 0000 October 24th to 2400 October 24th. These are strategic area diagrams and indicate the movements of the Allied and Japanese forces over large areas. The remaining diagrams, which are confined largely to the Surigao Strait and Mindanao Sea areas, are tactical diagrams. There will possibly be eleven of these.

The weather on the two strategic area diagrams requires considerable research and various types of symbols. You will see, from Volume III, that we have been using four types. The tactical diagrams will require very little weather inserts because the bad weather on these diagrams is confined to a small area southeast of Panason Island (southeast extension of Leyte Island).

I am writing to you about this in advance on the advice of Commander C. H. Champion, our Meteorologist here, so that you can prepare your data. When you get these diagrams in a couple of weeks, or perhaps a little later, you will then be able to start work on them.

The work that your section has been doing in this regard for my previous six volumes has always been highly appreciated and has been quite helpful over the past ten years. These diagrams without weather would not be a true indication of the situation.

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For your information this section is being dissolved as of June 30th so the weather data should be put on these diagrams and back here by that time. Fortunately it is the last item on our agenda.

With hopes that all this won't throw you for a loss, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES  
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Captain P. R. Droulihet, USN  
Director Naval Weather Service Division  
Room 5E589, Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

0016



8 May 1958

Dear Charlie:

We are working pretty hard here to try and finish Surigao Strait in a reasonable time. We will not finish it at the time of the dissolution of our section which is set at the present moment for 30 June, with myself remaining until 31 July, and Captain Titus until December anyway.

In working up the credit page I have been wondering if you could remember who the yeoman was who did most of your typing work. After your departure it was almost entirely done by Chief Yeoman Donald Pefferkorn (then YN1), but before that it could have been done by any one of the following:

Chief Yeoman Maurice W. Burton  
Yeoman first class Lawrence J. Baeringer  
Yeoman second class Charles C. Morrill  
Personnelman (typist) second class Hoyt S. Gibson

Possibly it was done by Yeoman second class Joseph F. Cavanaugh, but I think that Cavanaugh had already been detached.

You will be glad to know that in Captain Titus's replot--in this replot we used currents of which there was actually a considerable amount--the results, on the whole, largely supported your findings. In other words the credit for the major enemy damage goes largely to DESRON FIFTY-FOUR which was the first DESRON to fire; the remainder of the credit is divided between the destroyers and the Battle Line. The written portion of the analyses, i.e., that portion which we had worked up prior to your detachment, has been very useful in the rewrite with the replot, and were it not for that we would have been here indefinitely.

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If you would like to read what we have done, I shall be very happy to send it to you in rough form, but we have to get it back pretty soon as we are to be dissolved as of June 30th. In fact I already have my orders. I am being held on until July 31st--Titus until December, anyway.

I certainly hope that you and Mrs. Marinke are enjoying your stay in Washington and that you are not finding your assignment in Op-43 too difficult.

With best regards, and with the request that you will send me, when you can, the name of the yeoman, or yeomen, who did the major portion of the Surigao work in you/day, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain C. A. Marinke, USN  
Room 4A482, Pentagon  
Washington 25, D. C.

0018



May 8, 1958

Dear Dick:

I want to thank you very much for the copy of the letter you received from Admiral Burke. I hate to feel that Admiral Burke is stretching a point in what he says, but it is hard for me to believe that the budget has anything to do with the dissolution of this section. Certainly the Air Force and the Army have large units working on historical analyses—not of my type, but working on something just the same. We have practically nothing.

When Admiral "Bob" Pirie was here and talking about certain problems he had discovered in his command, I told him that if he would read my volumes these faults that he was learning today were discussed there and easily discoverable. I am afraid that George Santayana was right when he said, "those who will not learn from history are condemned to repeat it", and to quote Professor William R. Emerson at the Naval War College last December, "This—alas!—has been the story of American war in the 20th century. The lessons are there, but they have very largely been ignored amid the competing clamors of technological novelties and political debate".

Again I appreciate your sending me this letter, and more than that, I appreciate your writing the original letter which triggered off Burke's reply. I would like to think that something like the budget was, in fact, the major cause. But, I remember, only recently, Captain Moncure, who has the Captains' desk in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, said to me, "I have so many Captains with no where to assign them that they are dripping out of my ears".

With best regards and many thanks for your thought of me, I am, as ever,

Your old friend

Admiral Richard L. Conally, USN (Ret)  
President's Quarters  
CW Post College Annex  
Long Island University  
Brookville, Long Island, N. Y.

0019



May 8, 1958

Dear Helen and Dick:

I have been wanting to write to you for some time to thank you for the great pleasure I had of being your guest at your birthday dinner at the Metropolitan Club.

It was a very nice dinner and was thoroughly enjoyed by me, as well as by the other guests. I likewise enjoyed being your guest out at your new place on Long Island, and feel quite satisfied that you will be very happy, once you have reoriented yourselves to your new surroundings. Even your butler, who is a little diffident about the new place, will, I am sure, enjoy it once he has become acclimated.

Things are going along pretty well here. I am working hard to get as advanced as possible on my last volume which will be the Battle of Surigao Strait. It will certainly not be finished by July 31st—they have changed my detachment, now, from June 30th to July 31st—but it will be fairly well along. Fortunately, Captain Titus, who has done most of the basic research on this study, will be kept on active duty, and he will endeavor to finish it. I have told the Admiral that I expect to be around here for a good part of the time and will help Titus.

We have had nothing but rain here—today quite a heavy rain—and it is becoming a nuisance. Unfortunately, there is little we can do about it at the present, so we must bear with it.

I hear our friend Jack Bergen is going to the Far East on a another trip—why, I don't know, but I think I have a pretty good idea. I am sorry he will be gone before I can chat with him as I should like to know what is going on.

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I hope all is well with you and your family. I certainly enjoyed meeting them all, i.e., that is all that were at your birthday party, and I enjoyed meeting your guests. I thought everyone was very happy.

With many thanks for your thought of me, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Admiral and Mrs. Richard L. Conolly  
President's Quarters  
GW Post College Annex  
Long Island University  
Brookville, Long Island, N. Y.

0021



May 8, 1958

Dear Peggy and Archie:

I am giving a dinner for the President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, and Mrs. Ingersoll at the Clambake Club on Saturday, June 7th at 8:30.

I certainly would appreciate it greatly if you would honor the Ingersolls and myself by accepting my invitation.

It is nice to see you up here as often as you appear, but it does not seem to be quite often enough. I hope that you will be returning presently to the area for the summer.

With best regards to you and yours, and with hopes that you can attend this dinner, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Van Beuren  
15 Indian Avenue  
Middletown, Rhode Island

*W. Bates*

0022



May 8, 1958

Dear Katherine and George:

I am giving a dinner in honor of the President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, and Mrs. Ingersoll at the Glambake Club, June 7th, at 8:30.

Since no Newport dinner would be a success without the G. H. Warrens, I sincerely hope that you will honor me by your presence on that evening.

It was nice to see you both here the other day and I look for your return to this area permanently for the summer.

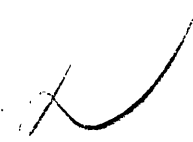
Your old pal Dave Merwin will be at the Global Strategy Discussions the first week in June.

With best regards, and the hope that you can attend, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Warren  
118 Mill Street  
Newport, Rhode Island



0023



May 8, 1958

Dear Evie and Crawford:

I am planning to give a dinner at the Clambake Club on June 7th in honor of the President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly would appreciate it greatly if you would honor me on that night with your presence. The dinner will be at 8:30.

In writing you this letter I also wish to say that I have heard reports about both of you which are all very favorable, with the exception that there was a story that you, Crawford, had been a little sick for a time. Rumors are, now, that you are your usual self again. I sincerely hope so!

With best regards and hopes that you will join me on this evening, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Hill  
St. Regis Hotel  
55th St. and 5th Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

0024



May 8, 1958

Dear Barbara and Nicky:

I am planning to give a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of the President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I shall be highly pleased if you would honor me and my honored guests by being present on this occasion.

I have heard rumors that you, Nicky, have been rather sick during the winter. It distresses me to hear it, but I hope that ~~the~~ rumors that you are well again are correct. Certainly Newport with a sick Nicky would be a most dreary place.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Holmsen  
Annandale Road  
Newport, R. I.

0025



May 9, 1958

Dear Ann and Mac:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be here in time for this event and will be able to be present. Certainly a party of this kind without the Mcleary's would indeed be unhappy.

With hopes that you are continuing to enjoy your Sarasota stay, but will soon return here, and with hopes that you are able to accept my invitation, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Commodore and Mrs. Howard B. Mcleary  
38 Catherine Street  
Newport, R. I.

306 Park Dr.  
Lido Beach  
Sarasota, Fla

0026



May 9, 1958

Dear Neo and Teddy:

I am giving a dinner for the President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, and Mrs. Ingersoll at the Clambake Club on Saturday, June 7th at 8:30.

I certainly hope that you will feel able to honor me by your presence on that occasion.

I am very glad that you are back. I can already feel your guiding hands at the helm of certain projects here, and I am certain that Tunes and Talents and the Boys' Club will respond favorably to your presence. You are both important to the local civic life of the community.

With best wishes and with the hope that you will be able to attend the dinner, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Grosvenor  
Bellevue Avenue  
Newport, R. I.

Accepted by Telephone  
May 12<sup>th</sup>

0027



May 9, 1958

Dear Betty and Gurnee:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will find yourselves free on that evening and will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself with your presence.

One advantage with the return of spring is the fact that many of our old friends return from their winter wanderings elsewhere. Although you don't quite fit into that sphere, nevertheless all of us feel that your presence has been all too little. How about it?

I'll be seeing you next Saturday.

With hopes that you can accept this invitation, I am,  
as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gurnee Dyer  
"Farmlands"  
RFD #1  
Newport, R. I.

*Accepted by telephone  
Sunday May 11th*

0028



May 9, 1958

Bear Pange and Mat:

I am giving a dinner at the Olambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be back by June 7th, and will honor the Ingersolls and myself by your presence.

I missed you considerably during the winter. Although I don't see as much of you as I should like, I know that you are there on Bowery Street, and that is something!

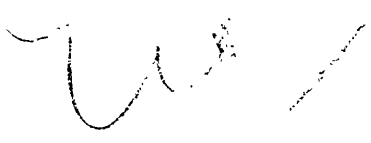
I trust that you have enjoyed your winter in Sarasota, for we did here, although the weather since Christmas has been atrocious. We hear of you every now and then and all reports are very favorable. I hope that they are true.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. C. Mathews Dick  
"Clover Patch"  
Bowery Street  
Newport, R. I.



0029



May 9, 1958

Dear Mary and Howard:

I am giving a dinner at the Glambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by your presence on this occasion.

I am very happy to see that you are back again and that you are likely to stay for a while. Very frankly, I have missed you, and feel certain that with your arrival here the summer season will take root again.

With best regards to you both, and with hopes that you can join me, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

✓  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Cushing  
"The Ledges"  
Ocean Avenue  
Newport, R. I.

0030



May 9, 1958

Dear Hindman:

While looking through my papers I found a 1954 letter concerning you from an officer who is now rather senior. Since what he wrote me was private and personal I put it aside. However, now that I have discovered it I feel it only fair that I quote you what he wrote. Here is the quote:

"He (meaning you) has virtually been out of circulation insofar as the fleet is concerned since the end of the war,--for what reason I don't know,--in competing with others of his time who have been doing active duty in squadrons and on ships of the fleet and at overseas billets. Under such circumstances, I don't think it would be fair either to him or to the fleet to assign him command of a fleet unit."

Since your record, according to the boys in what was formerly Op-54 but is now in BuPers, is fine in every way, it might be well to look into this item and see if something can't be done to correct its effect before this next selection board, which will be meeting in a couple of months.

You are an able fellow, and since you are the only officer from this office not promoted since I first started here, I think that it is too bad. I will see what I can do on this the next time I go to Washington. I do think, though, that what I wrote you long ago is correct, i.e., you must get the support of one or more Admirals in your area.

Did you know that this section is being abolished as of July 31st?

With the hope that you and Mrs. Hindman are in fine shape, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander Stanley E. Hindman, USN  
U. S. Naval Air Station  
Corpus Christi, Texas

0031



May 9, 1958

Dear Janet and Hugh:

I am giving a dinner at the Glambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

Although Admiral Ingersoll has been here for some time he missed meeting some of the more prominent summer residents, largely because of the presence of the President of the United States in September, and then because with the departure of the President he entered the hospital for an operation.

I, therefore, trust that you will be able to honor me with your presence on that occasion.

With best regards, and with the hope of seeing you up here shortly, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss  
"Merrywood"  
McLean, Virginia

24

0032



May 9, 1958

Dear Muriel and John:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

Since you, John, are to attend our Global Strategy Discussions, I feel hopeful that you both will be able to accept my invitation for that evening, and will honor the Ingersolls and myself with your presence.

Everyone has missed you during your absence from Newport. You are both very popular here, and the place seems rather quiet with you both away. Hurry back!, and start your return earlier than Silky Sullivan did last Saturday.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Dr. and Mrs. John Payson Adams  
Hazard Road  
Newport, R. I.

*Accepted by Telephone*

0033



May 12, 1958

Dear Harriet and Hank:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by your acceptance of this invitation.


I am certainly glad that you have finally finished your winter vacations and are back in Newport, more or less permanently. As you, Hank, know, it gets pretty lonely in Newport during the winter when most of one's friends are away. So, it is fine to have you back! Your big job now will be to move into your new house. It will be a job but a lot of fun. Do you wish me to throw the Navy out!

With best regards, and the hope that you will be able to join me, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Phelps  
90 Rhode Island Ave.  
Newport, R. I.



0034



May 12, 1958

Dear Daisy:

I am giving a dinner at the Glambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by being present on this occasion.

I was glad to have the privilege of taking you to the Bruguiere dinner on Saturday night. I was sorry I couldn't remain yesterday afternoon at Ena's to discuss the matter further, for I have an ~~interest~~ to be an interesting session!

With best regards, and the hope that you can come, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. C. Oliver O'Donnell  
LeRoy Avenue  
Newport, R. I.

*Accompanied by letter*

0035



May 12, 1958

Dear Cyril:

As you know I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I am sending this to you merely in confirmation of my telephonic statement that you are wanted. It is my understanding that you have already accepted, so this is purely for the record.

It is nice to see you back! I'm sorry that I didn't see you yesterday because I found the Bali card you sent. No wonder you stayed away so long!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Cyril B. Judge  
Webster Street  
Newport, R. I.

*Accepted by voice*

0036



May 12, 1958

Dear Polly and Bill:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by your presence on this occasion.

Although I haven't seen you recently Polly, I have seen you, Bill, in the Reading Room with the ever attendant Bozie. I feel safe to say that you are both in town. Hurray!

With best regards, and the hope that you will be able to accept this invitation, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. William Grosvenor  
Ruggles Avenue  
Newport, R. I.

*Accepted by letter*

0037



May 12, 1958

Dear Cynthia:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I spoke to you at your home a few days ago about this and you said at the time that you would be happy to go. So, I am sending this more in confirmation of my invitation to you, rather than another invitation.

I was sorry I couldn't stay at Ena's yesterday to hear more conversation. I felt that the conversation was going to be interesting indeed!

With the hope that you will be able to come to the dinner, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Guy F. Gary  
Bellevue Avenue  
Newport, R. I.

*Accepted by letter*

0038



12 May 1958

Dear Pfefferkorn:

The whole office force were quite interested in receiving your letter of 10 March wherein you discussed your experiences in your new assignment. We are all happy that your training in this office fitted you, in your mind, so admirably for this assignment. We are impressed also with the fact that (a) you now have a daughter, and (b) that your two sons took this in their stride. They are a fine pair of boys and if the little lady measures up to what I saw of her brothers you will be very happy indeed.

As regards the Grand Marshal assignment in Minneapolis, it was very successful. I arrived there on the specified day. The temperature was about 100°, but believe it or not I stood it very well. I was received by the Mayor, the City Fathers and the Queens, and everything was very friendly. I spoke three times; the first time before the Navy League party given at the Country Club on one of the lakes. The setting couldn't have been more beautiful, the people delightful; the second time was a talk before the Kick-Off Dinner of the Aquatennial where I had to compete with one of New York's crack H.C.'s. I spoke off the cuff, was quite successful, and was made Honorary Commodore of the Aquatennial for life! The third time was the Legislators' Luncheon where I presented the battle flags and was decorated with the Town Topper Medal, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. In total I suppose I spoke to about 1,000 people. The fact that they are still very friendly indicates that I didn't do too badly.

I have bad news to tell you. The Chief of Naval Operations has decided to freeze out the World War II Battle Evaluation Group as of 31 July of this year. They are actually going to fold it on 30 June, but to insure that I get under the new pay bill, they delayed my date of detachment. It is too bad that we are being folded because we have enough data piled up here to have partly finished another volume up to 2400 October 24th.

Other than the above there is nothing new to report.

With best regards to you and to your family, and many thanks for the letter--again it was very interesting to us all, I am,

Very sincerely,

D. Pfefferkorn, YNC, USN  
AFSOUTH, Box 6  
Navy No. 510  
Care Fleet Post Office  
New York, N. Y.

R. W. BATES

0039



May 13, 1958

Dear Eleanor and Nat:

I am giving a dinner at the Glambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th, at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by your presence on this occasion.

I have heard a great deal of you throughout the past few months because of the letters which you wrote to some of your friends here narrating your cruise. Judging from the letters you had a perfectly wonderful time, which is a little surprising to me, because a cruise of that length (with most travellers unknown) can become difficult. The fact that you enjoyed it so much shows that your ability to adjust yourselves is of high order.

I look forward to seeing you both on the night of June 7th, and to observe how well the south seas have "treated you".

With best regards, and hopes that you both will be here, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Hill  
Narragansett Avenue  
Newport, R. I.

*Accepted by ltr*

*440 Park Ave.  
NYC.*

0040



May 13, 1958

Dear Peggy and Persi:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th, at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I hope that you will be here for this. It is about time for you to return to this area, and a party by me for the new President—who is not really new because he was here last fall—won't be a success without you.

I look forward to your return because you both contribute a lot to the good will of your many friends, as well as of the local community, which is an important factor in the life of us all.

I trust that you had a charming winter and will now have a wonderful summer. Certainly Newport should be very gay indeed!

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Persifor Fraser  
Narragansett Avenue  
Newport, R. I.



0041



May 13, 1958

Dear May and Preston:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th, at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by your presence on this occasion.

I haven't seen you for a long time, but I presume you will be up here presently, as your friends are beginning to appear. The Morris's came back the other day as did the Vernon Reeds. So, there you are! Hurry back!

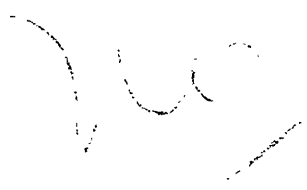
The weather for the past few days has been magnificent. Heretofore, for days at a time, it has been rather poor, but now it would appear that the summer for which Newport is famous will arrive in good style. Spring has been delayed too long!

With hopes that you both have had a very happy winter with no unhappy developments to mar your stay in New York, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Davie  
"The Waves"  
Ledge Road  
Newport, R. I.



0042



May 13, 1958

Dear Mary and Jimmie:

I am giving a dinner at the Clambake Club on Saturday evening, June 7th, at 8:30 in honor of Vice Admiral Stuart H. Ingersoll, President of the Naval War College, and Mrs. Ingersoll.

I certainly hope that you will be able to honor the Ingersolls and myself by your presence on this occasion.

It is wonderful to see you back again and to note that both of you are getting into the swing of things. Certainly you contribute a lot to the local community, and, because of that, to the broader community.

I appreciate your success, Jimmie, in making music for my poor words. I think that your finale, as accepted, makes my words seem better than they are. Thank you! As for you, Mary, I can see that you are already getting underway to start one of your very important ventures. Keep it up!

With hopes that you can attend this dinner, and with best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Beck  
Ledge Road  
Newport. R. I.

0043



May 14, 1956

Dear Stilly:

I hope you didn't think that I had forgotten your query relative to the Jap cruiser and destroyer which you referred to as sunk in November 1942.

I had the matter investigated and find out that "The Imperial Japanese Navy in World War II", prepared by the Military History Section Special Staff, GHQ, Far East Command, lists the heavy cruiser KINUGASA sunk by aircraft near New Georgia Island on November 14th, 1942.

This action is commented on in Robert Sherrod's book, "History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II", on page 115. He says that during the night of 13th - 14th November a Japanese force of three cruisers and four destroyers shelled Henderson Field for forty-five minutes but ended abruptly "possibly because two little PT boats began making runs on the cruisers". The morning aircraft searches found the force and put two torpedoes into the KINUGASA which ENTERPRISE flyers (from Henderson Field) sank later in the morning.

The only destroyer listed as sunk within a prior one-month period was the DD YUDACHI which was sunk just south of Savo Island on the morning of November 13th, 1942 after being damaged in a night action the night before. The actual sinking was accomplished by the PORTLAND (from Morison's "History of United States Naval Operations in World War II, Volume V, page 254).

I hope this solves your problem and that you are happy about it.

I thought the PETER TARE ~~thunder~~ was fine and I particularly enjoyed seeing my old friends again.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Mr. Henry Stillman Taylor  
Center Island  
Oyster Bay, New York

0044